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# Current Employment Statistics Highlights



**February 2013**

Release Date: March 8, 2013

Prepared by Staff of the National Estimates Branch  
Current Employment Statistics Survey  
U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

202-691-6555

[Email CES](#)

## Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, February 2013

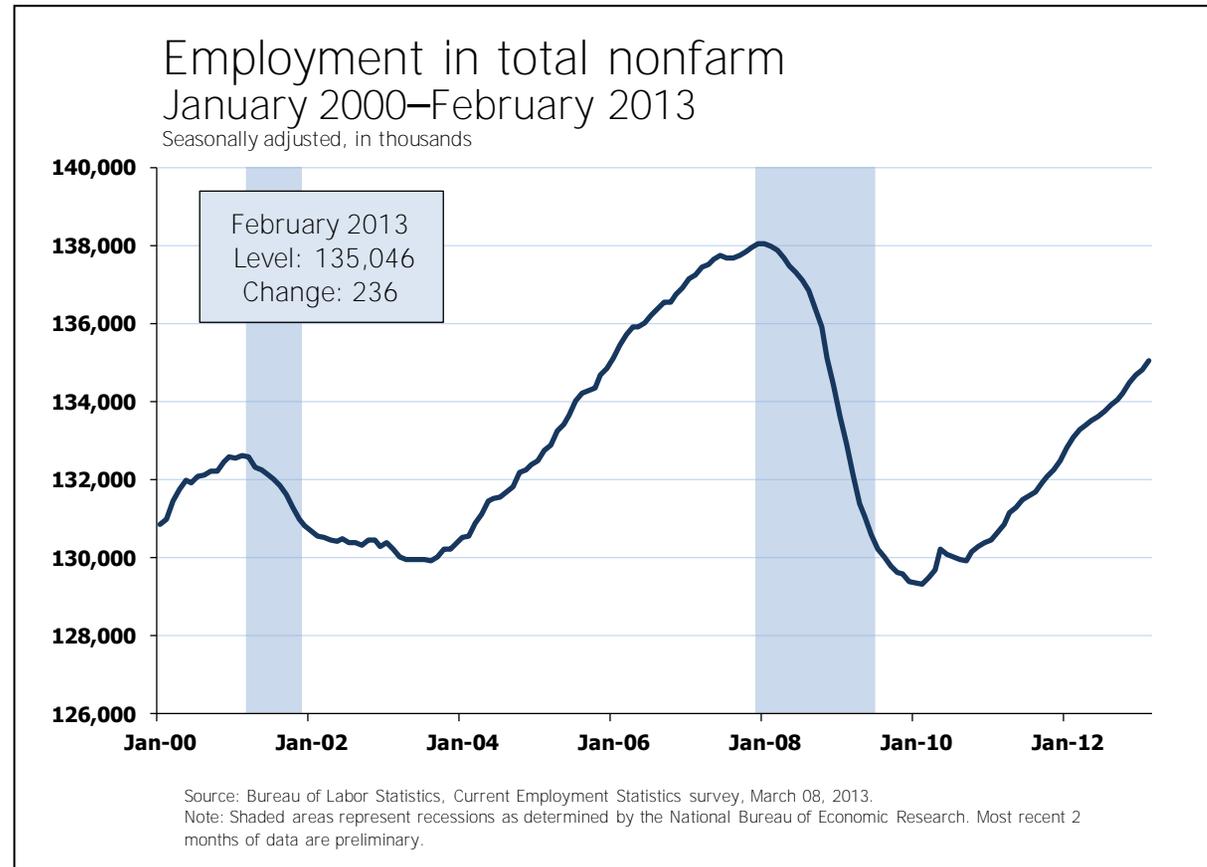
**+ 236,000 Total Nonfarm**  
**+ 246,000 Total Private**

Total nonfarm employment increased by 236,000 in February, compared to an average over-the-month change of 175,000 in the prior 6 months. Since reaching a low in February 2010, nonfarm employment has grown by 5.7 million. In February, construction, information, professional and business services, and health care added jobs.

Average hourly earnings for all employees on private-sector payrolls increased by 4 cents in February. Hourly earnings are up 2.1 percent over the year. Average weekly hours rose by 0.1 hour in February to 34.5 hours.

### + 48,000 Construction

Construction employment rose in February, with gains concentrated in specialty trade contractors (+32,000). Both residential and nonresidential specialty trade contractors contributed to the gain. Nonresidential building construction added 6,000 jobs over the month. Since reaching an employment low in January 2011, the construction industry has added 349,000 jobs.



### + 24,000 Retail trade

Employment in retail trade rose by 24,000 in February with small increases in most component industries. Employment fell by 8,000 in electronics and appliance stores,

following a job gain of 6,000 in January. Over the year, retail trade employment has grown by 252,000.

## Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, February 2013

### + 20,000 Information

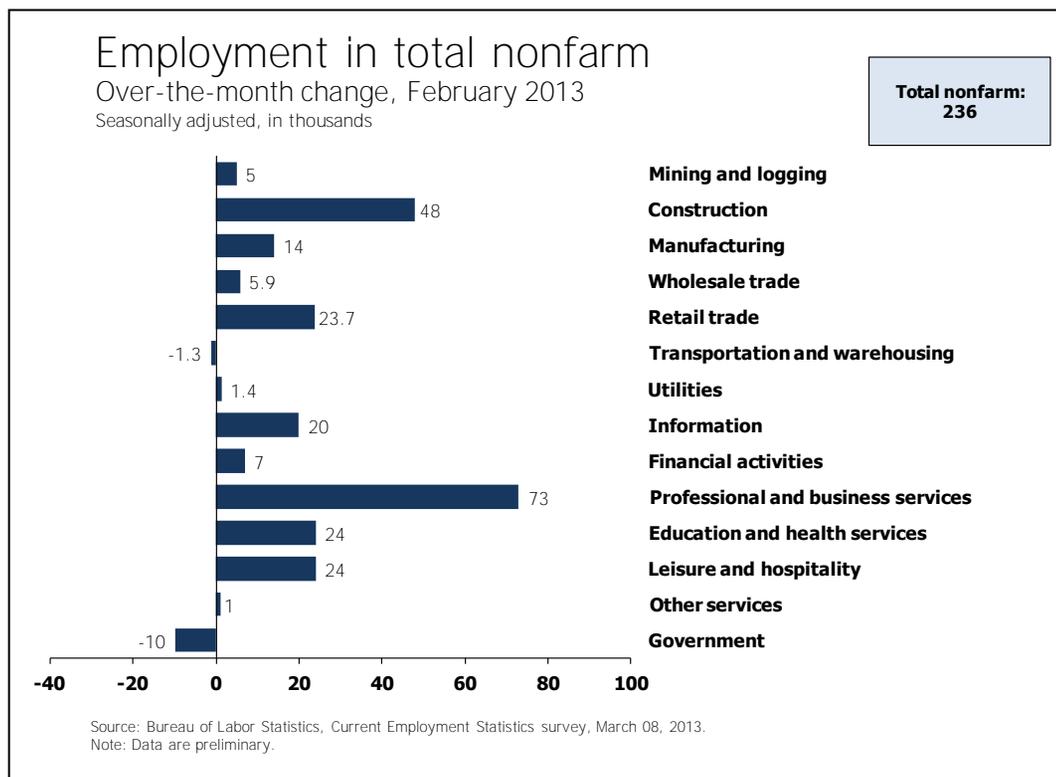
Information added 20,000 jobs over the month. The job gain was concentrated in motion picture and sound recording industries, where employment can be volatile from month to month.

### + 73,000 Professional and business services

Professional and business services employment rose by 73,000 in February. Administrative and support services added 44,000 jobs, with small gains distributed through much of the sector. Employment in temporary help services changed little over the month (+16,000). Accounting and bookkeeping services added 11,000 jobs in February, more than offsetting a job loss in January. Moderate job growth continued in computer systems design and in management and technical consulting.

### + 24,000 Education and health care

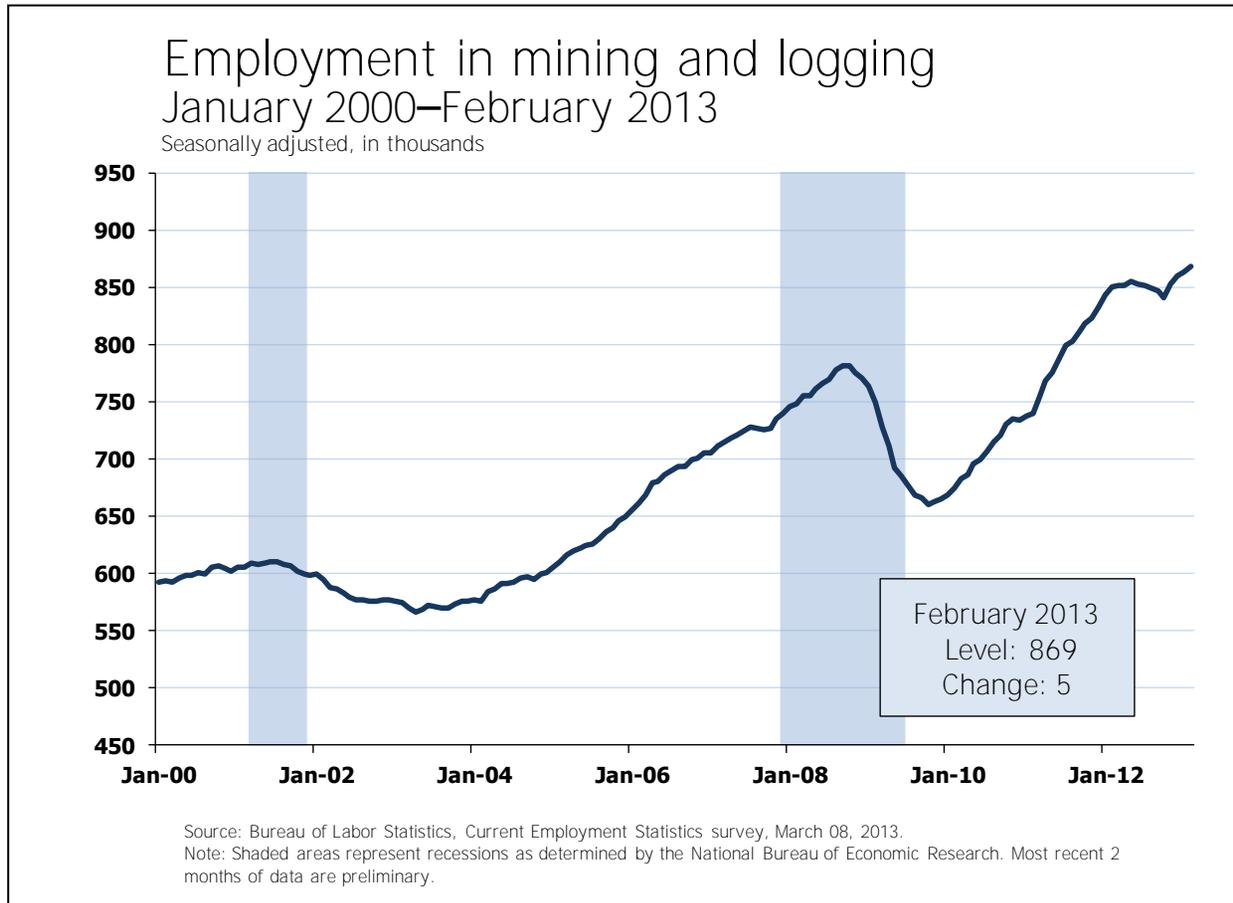
Health care added 32,000 jobs in February. Both hospitals and nursing and residential care facilities added 9,000 jobs. Over the year, health care has added an average 25,000 jobs per month.



**Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary,  
February 2013**

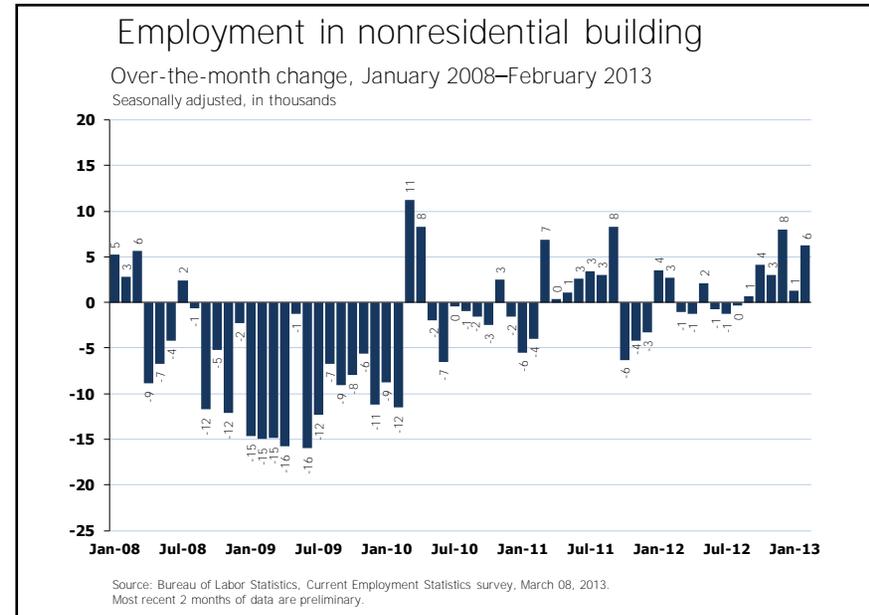
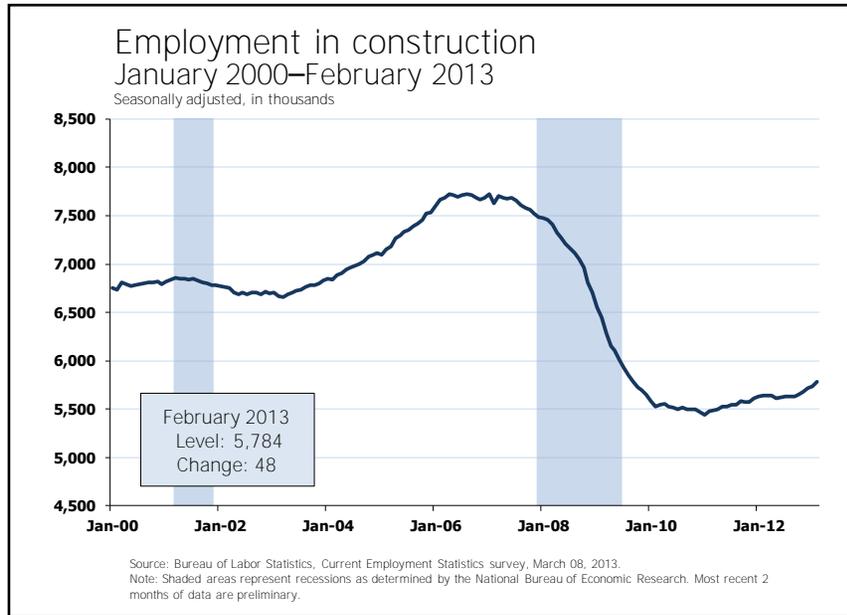
<b>Other Over-the-month Employment Changes* February 2013</b>	
Mining and logging	+ 5,000
Manufacturing	+14,000
Wholesale trade	+6,000
Transportation and Warehousing	-1,000
Utilities	+ 1,000
Financial activities	+ 7,000
Leisure and hospitality	+24,000
Other services	+ 1,000
Government	- 10,000
*Over-the-month changes in this table are not statistically significant (based on a 90% confidence interval)	

### Mining and Logging



In February, employment within mining and logging continued to trend upward. In 3 months, the industry has gained 16,000 jobs, coinciding with a renewed increase in the count of active rigs drilling for natural gas and a recent upward trend in natural gas prices. ([Baker Hughes](#)).

## Construction



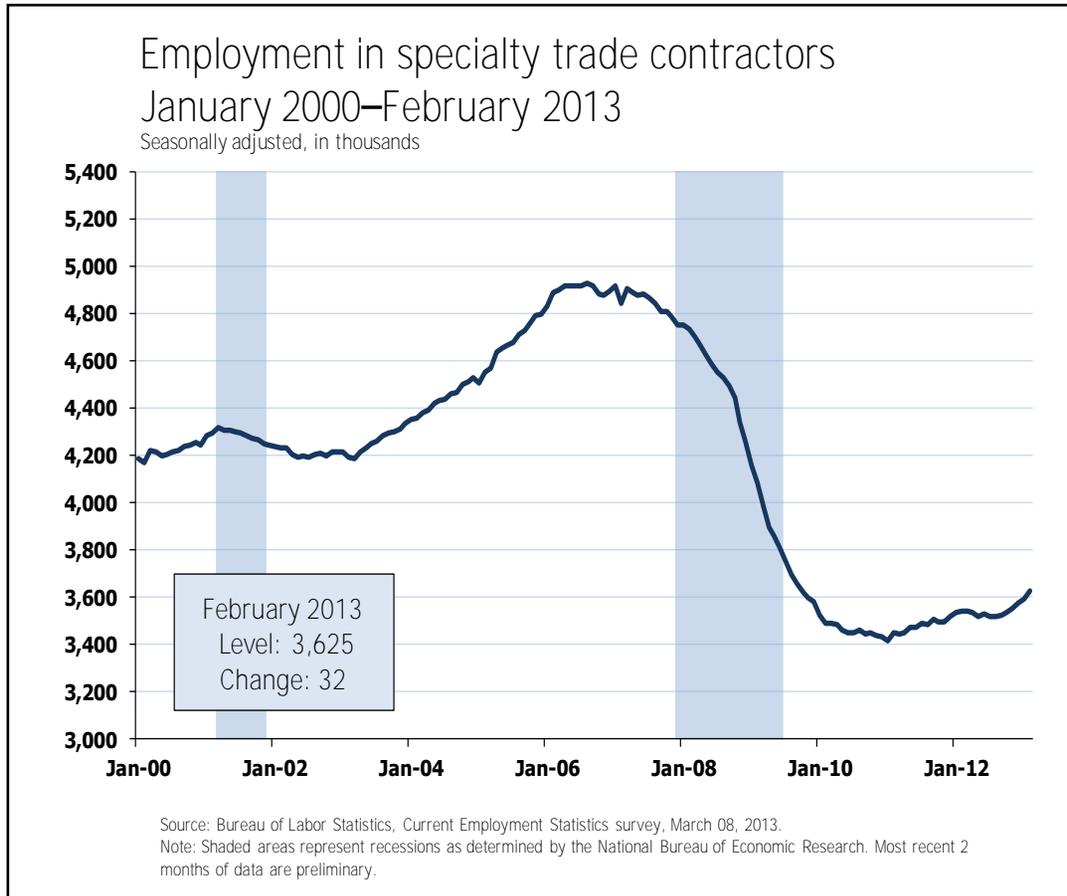
Construction employment increased by 48,000 in February, bringing the current 3-month change to 111,000. This increase represents an acceleration over the 43,000 jobs that were added in the 3 months ending in November 2012.

The February job gain in construction is the largest 1-month increase since March 2007 when 80,000 jobs were added. Since reaching an employment trough in January 2011, the industry has added 349,000 jobs

### NAICS 2362 – Nonresidential building

Employment in nonresidential building rose by 6,000 in February and has grown by 16,000 over the most recent 3 months. The industry has added 39,000 jobs since reaching an employment trough in February 2011.

### Construction



#### NAICS 238 – Specialty trade contractors

Employment in specialty trade contractors rose by 32,000 in February. Within the industry, residential specialty trade contractors (NAICS 238001) added 17,000 jobs. This gain is consistent with the [Census Bureau's](#) report that building permits for housing rose 1.8 percent in January.

Nonresidential specialty trade contractors (NAICS 238002) added 15,000 jobs in February, consistent with the job growth in nonresidential building construction. Nonresidential specialty trade contractors has added 33,000 jobs over the last 3 months.

## Manufacturing

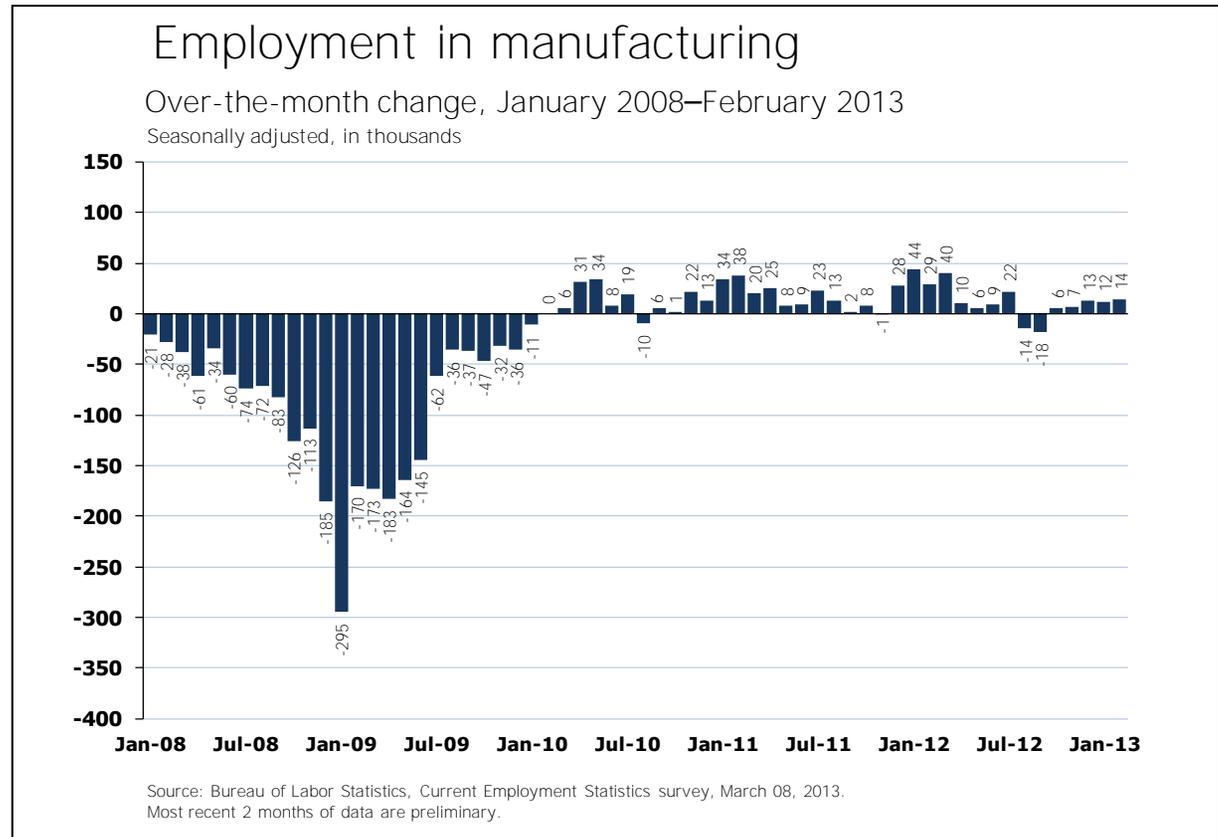
In February, manufacturing employment ticked up for the fifth consecutive month. Employment in both durable goods and nondurable goods changed little over the month.

The 1-month diffusion index of manufacturing employment rose from 57.4 in January to 60.5 in February. The diffusion index measures the dispersion of employment change in manufacturing, with a value above 50 indicating that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than losing them.

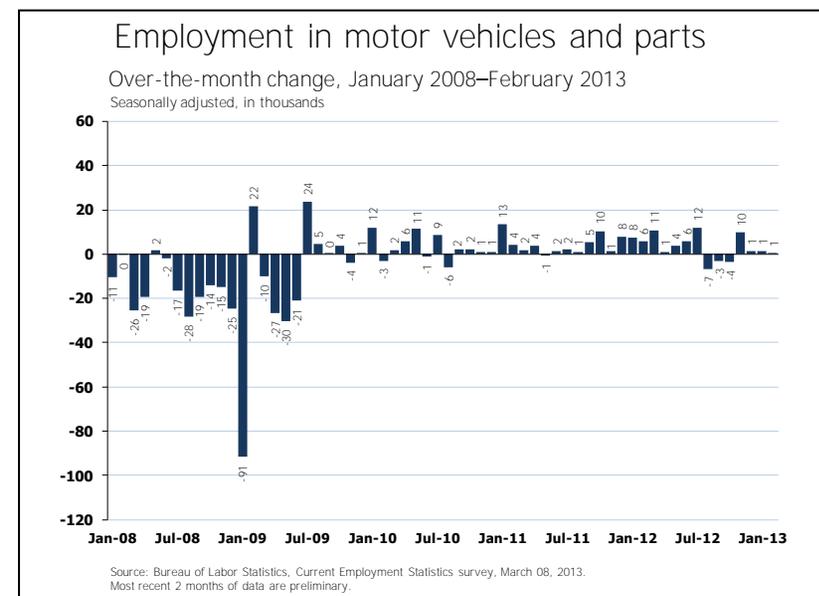
In February, the factory workweek for production employees was 0.2 hour longer. The factory workweek is considered a leading economic indicator. The February index of aggregate weekly hours for production employees increased 0.5 percent over the month.

### NAICS 324 – Petroleum and coal products

In February, petroleum and coal products lost 2,000 jobs, offsetting an employment increase in January. Employment in the industry reached a trough in January 2011 and has since expanded by 5,000.



## Manufacturing



### NAICS 332 – Fabricated metal products

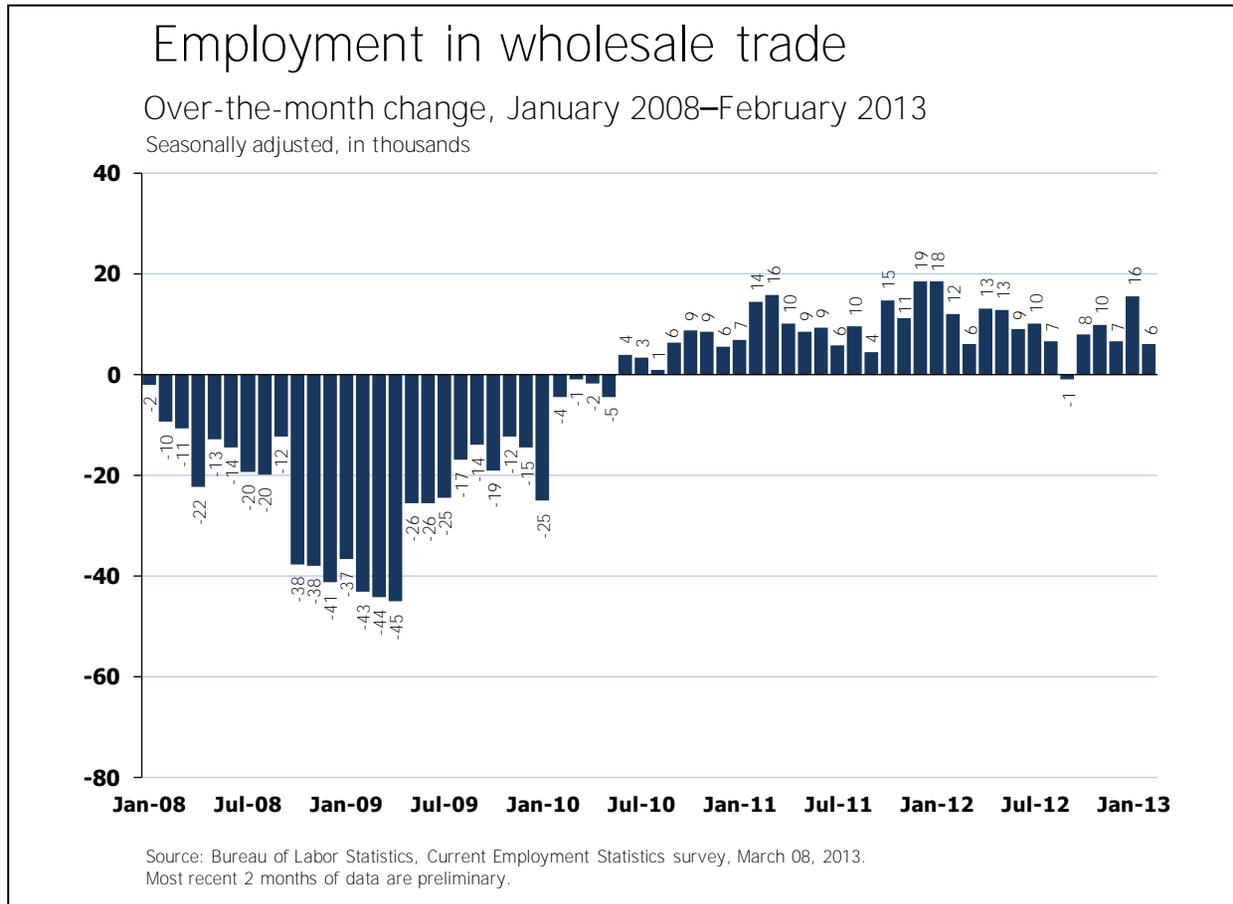
Fabricated metal products added 6,000 jobs in February. Since the most recent employment low in January 2010, the industry has recovered 178,000 jobs, or approximately 57 percent of the jobs lost during its June 2007–January 2010 downturn.

### NAICS 3361, 3362, and 3363 combined – Motor vehicles and parts

In February, employment in motor vehicles and parts manufacturing was essentially unchanged. Since reaching an employment trough in June 2009, the industry has recovered 163,000 jobs; however, in recent months industry employment has shown little net change.

### Wholesale Trade

Employment for wholesale trade in February continued to trend up (+ 6,000).



## Retail Trade

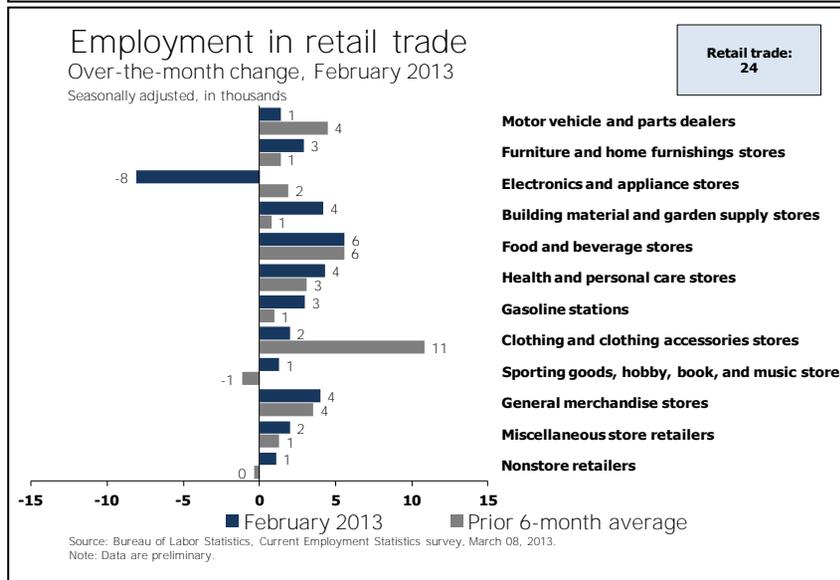


Retail trade employment continued to trend up (+24,000) in February. Over the prior 6 months, retail employment growth had averaged 32,000 per month. In February, electronics and appliance stores lost 8,000 jobs, more than offsetting an upward employment movement of 6,000 in January.

Since reaching an employment low in December 2009, retail trade has recovered 723,000 jobs or approximately 58 percent of the jobs lost during the industry's November 2007–December 2009 downturn.

Recent retail-related indicators have been mixed. As shown by [Census Bureau data](#), retail sales registered a small increase of 0.1 percent in January but were up 4.4 percent over the year. Automotive sales, as measured by [MotorIntelligence](#), remained robust in February, up 0.1 million from year-ago levels. Additionally, the [Conference Board](#) noted that Consumer Confidence rose sharply in February. Consumers' optimism over business and labor market conditions was a factor cited in increasing confidence over the month.

However, according to the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#), the price of gasoline for February was up 44 cents per gallon from January and the cost per gallon was 23 cents above year-ago levels.



### Retail Trade

**RETAIL TRADE**  
**Holiday Season Employment Buildup and Layoff**  
**(Not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)**

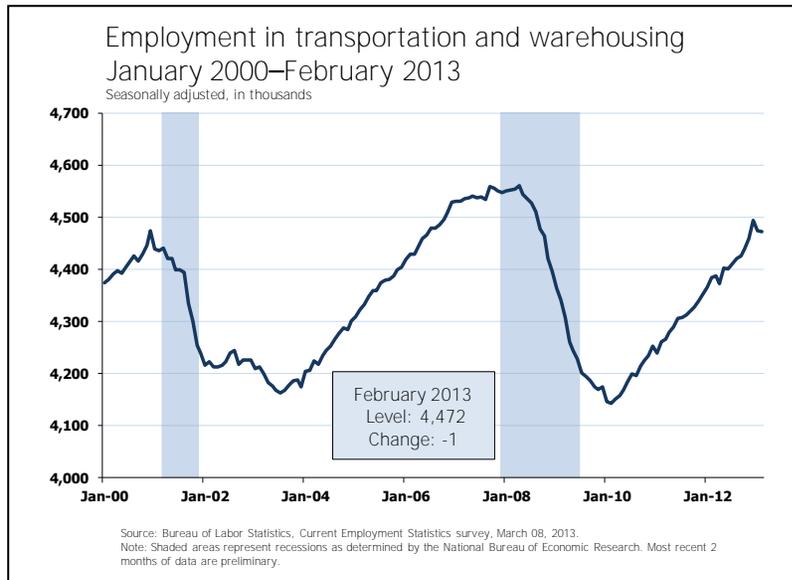
YEAR	SEPT. LEVEL	TOTAL HOLIDAY BUILDUP (OCT. -DEC.)	% HOLIDAY BUILDUP	OVER-THE-MONTH CHANGE		TOTAL LAYOFF	LAYOFF AS % OF BUILDUP
				JAN.	FEB.		
2007-08	8,442.0	775.6	9.2	-610.8	-224.3	-835.1	108
2008-09	8,292.6	473.9	5.7	-609.6*	-210.8	-820.4	173
2009-10	7,880.8	555.3	7.0	-487.6*	-154.9	-642.5	116
2010-11	7,906.4	634.2	8.0	-477.1	-166.3	-643.4	101
2011-12	8,045.5	667.9	8.3	-486.3	-219.7*	-706.0	106
<b>Average</b>	<b>8,113.5</b>	<b>621.4</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>-534.3</b>	<b>-195.2</b>	<b>-729.5</b>	<b>117</b>
2012-13	8,128.5	738.0	9.1	-524.5	-178.3*	-702.8	95

The October-to-December retail employment buildup (not seasonally adjusted) was the strongest since 2007. This stronger-than-average buildup was followed by a weaker-than-average layoff period in January and February. These changes resulted in seasonally adjusted gains overall. Employment in retail trade has increased by 181,000 since September.

Includes employment only from furniture and home furnishings stores, electronics and appliance stores, other specialty food stores, health and personal care stores, clothing and clothing accessories stores, sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores, general merchandise stores, miscellaneous store retailers, and electronic shopping and mail-order houses.

\*Indicates 5 weeks between weeks of the 12th for the current and prior month, there are 4 weeks when not annotated. The CES reference period is the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Seasonal movements can differ depending on the number of weeks between surveys.

## Transportation and Warehousing



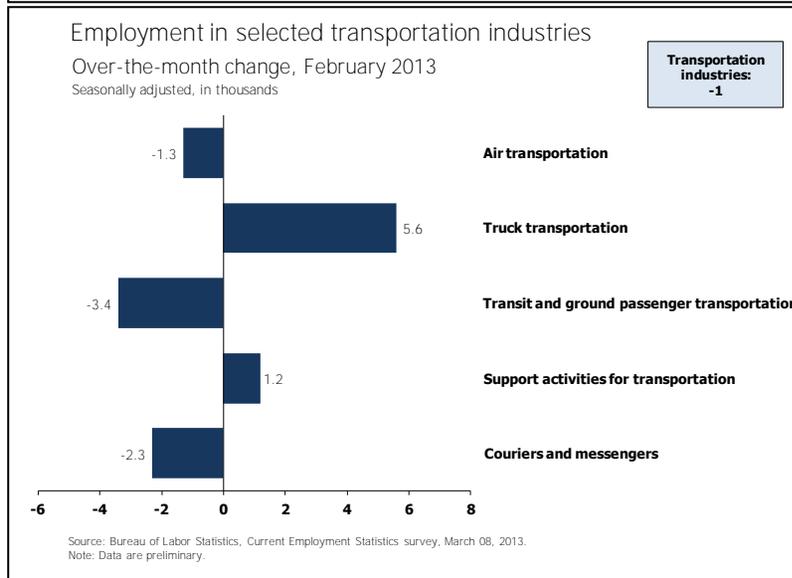
The count of jobs within transportation and warehousing hardly changed in February. Over the year, both truck transportation and warehousing and storage were engines of job growth within transportation and warehousing. The two industries accounted for 68 percent of 88,000 transportation jobs gained over the year.

### NAICS 492 – Couriers and messengers

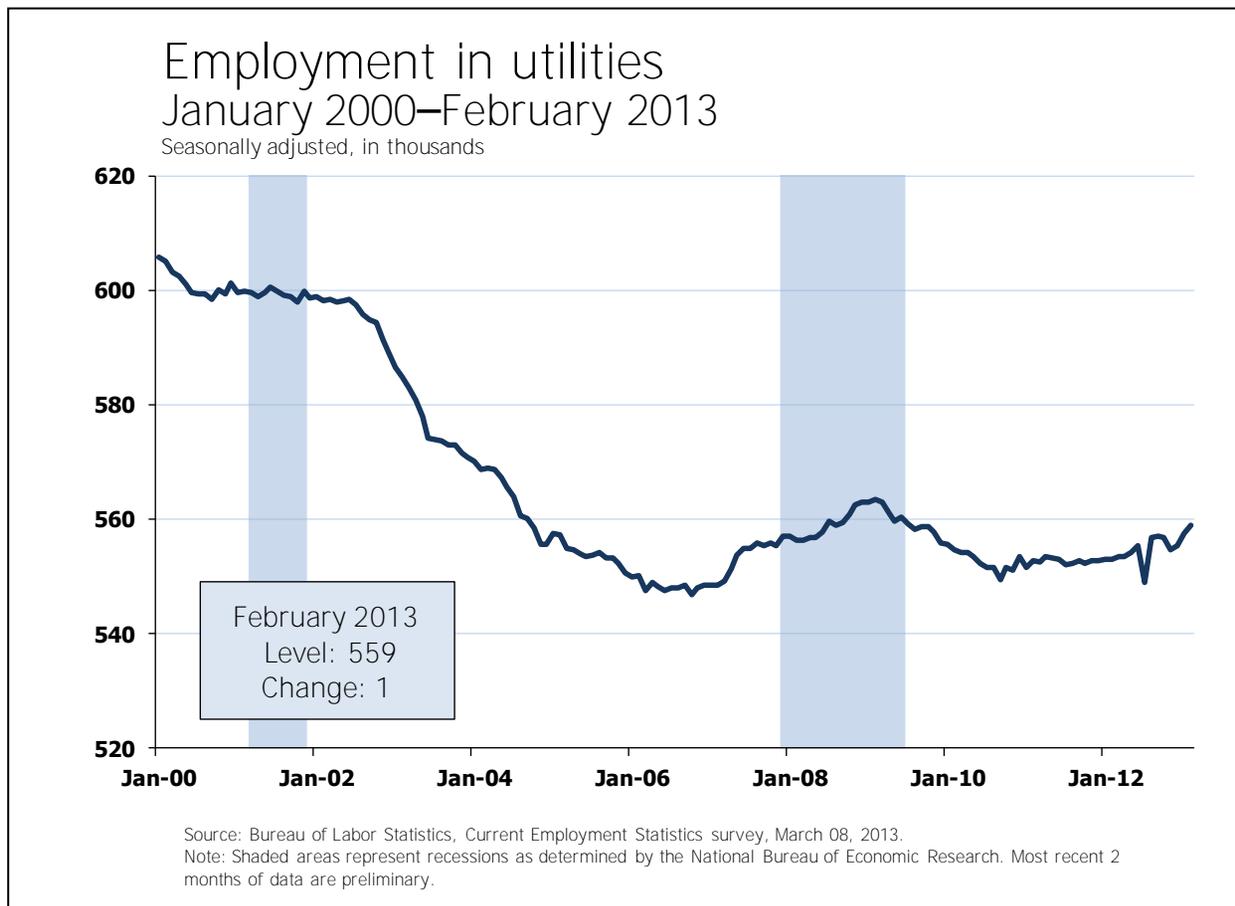
After gaining 24,000 jobs in December and losing 20,000 jobs in January, employment in couriers and messengers decreased by 2,000 in February.

### NAICS 485 – Transit and ground passenger transportation

Employment in transit and ground passenger transportation changed little in February (-3,000), with a labor dispute involving school bus drivers in New York City having little effect.

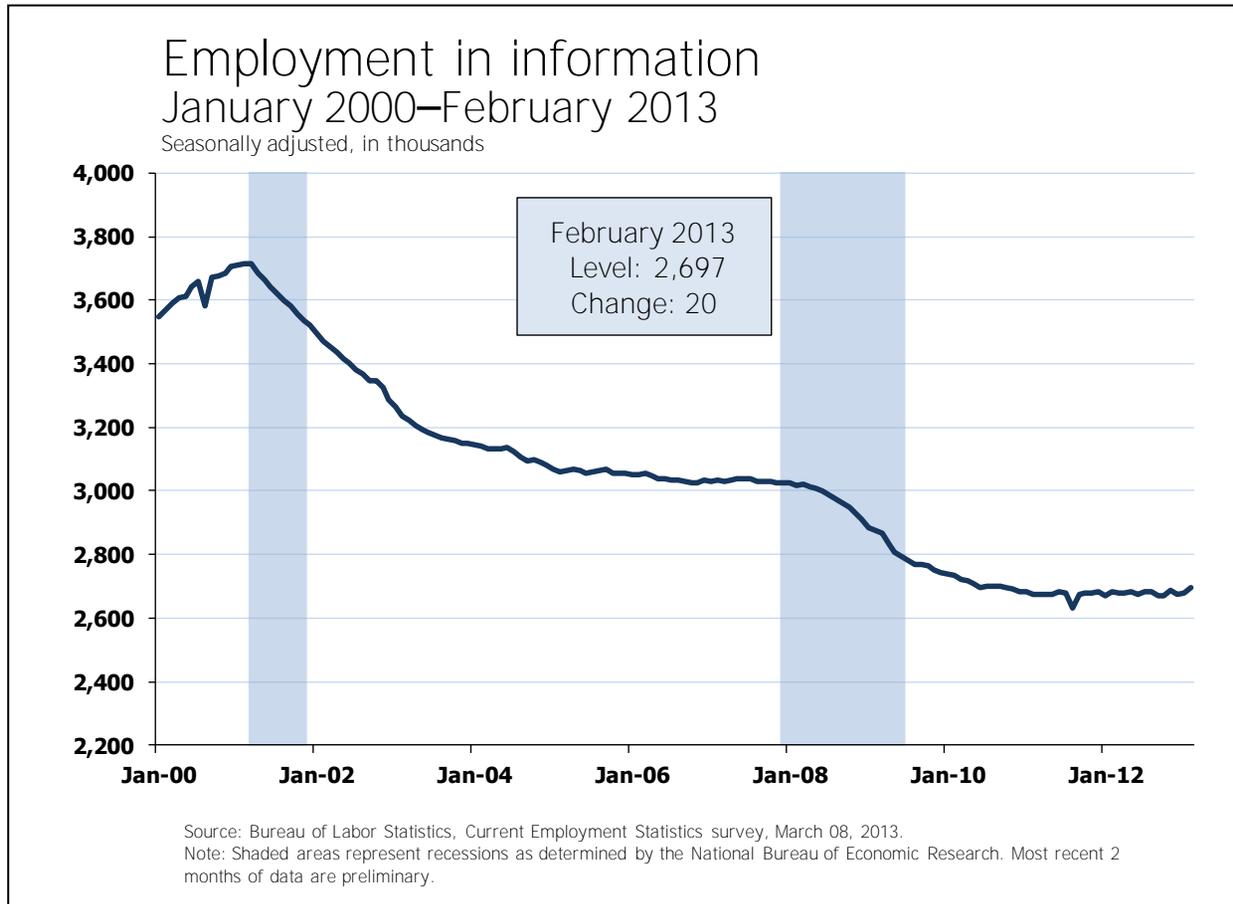


## Utilities



There was no significant employment change in utilities in February.

**Information**

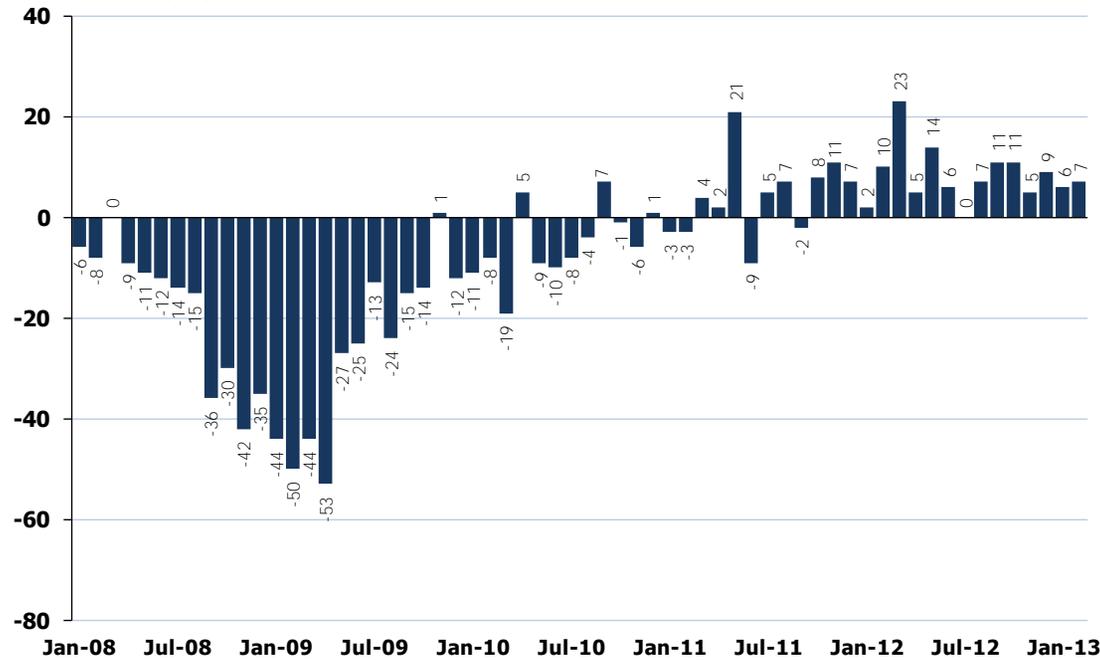


Information employment grew by 20,000 in February. This increase is entirely attributable to a job gain in motion picture and sound recording industries (+21,000). Employment in this industry is characterized by month-to-month fluctuations. Employment changed little over the month elsewhere in information.

### Financial Activities

## Employment in financial activities

Over-the-month change, January 2008–February 2013  
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 08, 2013.  
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

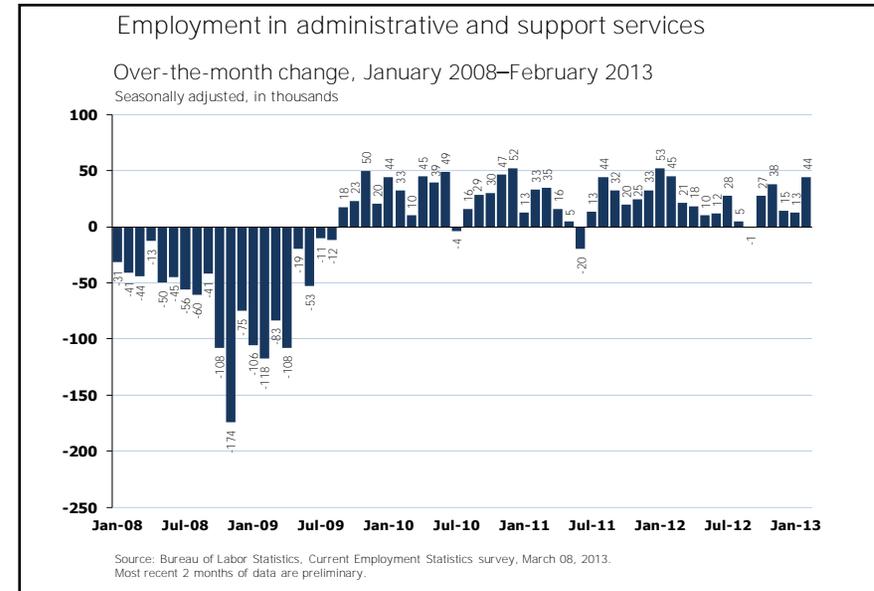
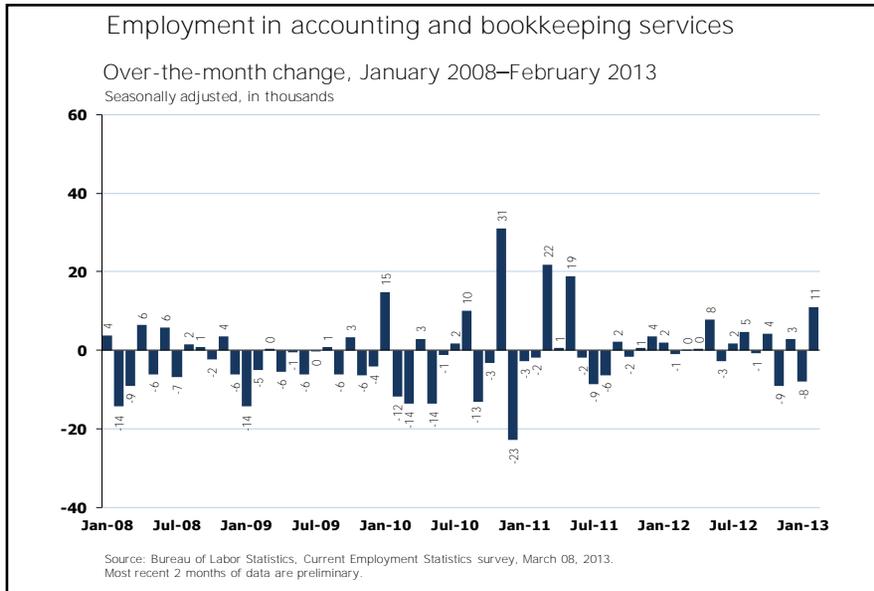
Employment in financial activities continued to trend up in February (+7,000) with little change among the component industries. Financial activities has added 170,000 jobs since employment reached a trough in February 2011.

### Professional and business services



Employment in professional and business services grew by 73,000 in February, marking the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive month of job growth in the industry. Since the most recent employment trough in August 2009, professional and business services has added 1.9 million jobs. Employment in the industry now stands 190,000 above the most recent peak in December 2007. In February, employment gains were seen in professional and technical services and in administrative and waste services.

### Professional and business services



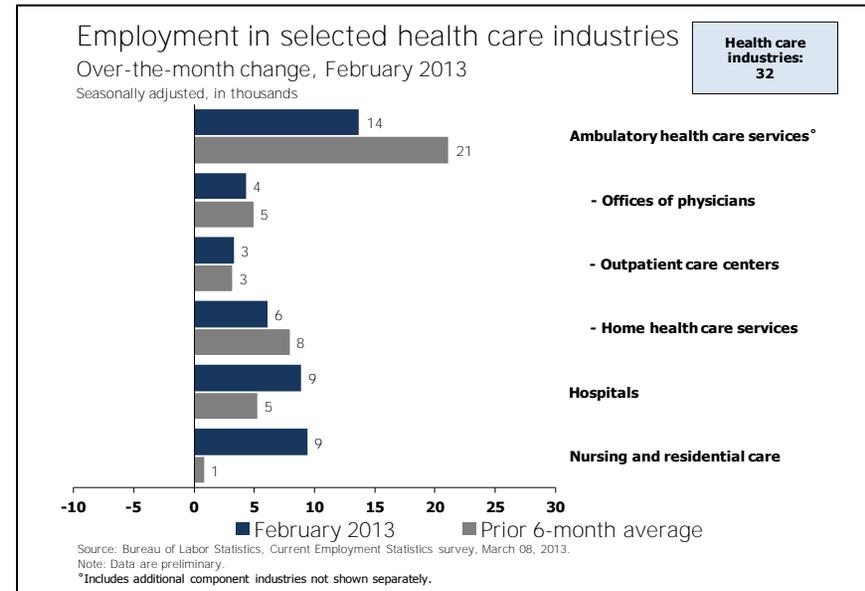
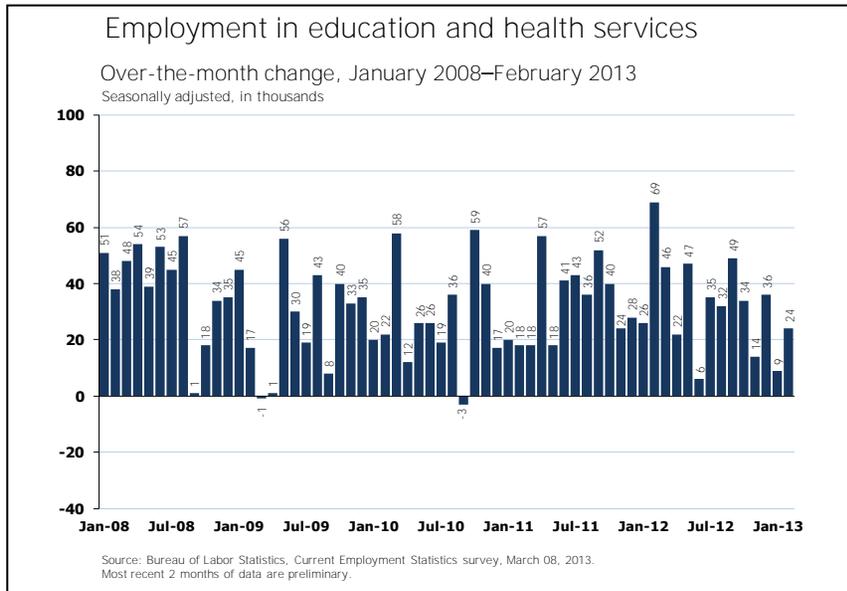
#### NAICS 5412 – Accounting and bookkeeping services

Accounting and bookkeeping services employment increased by 11,000 in February, following a decline in January. Among the component industries, payroll services contributed the largest employment gain.

#### NAICS 561 – Administrative and support services

Administrative and support services added 44,000 jobs in February. Among the component industries, the largest movement was seen in employment services, more specifically, temporary help services (+16,000).

### Private education and health services



Education and health services employment continued to trend up in February (+24,000). A job gain of 39,000 in health care and social assistance was partially offset by a small downward movement in educational services employment (-15,000).

Nearly all of the jobs added in health care and social assistance in February occurred in health care (+32,000), with gains spread throughout all of its major component industries. Social assistance employment continued a modest upward trend.

Within health care, ambulatory health care services employment rose by 14,000 over the month, while hospitals and nursing and residential care facilities gained 9,000 jobs each. Since February 2010, the end of the most recent downturn in total nonfarm employment, health care has added 811,000 jobs, accounting for approximately 14 percent of total nonfarm job gains in that time period. Over two-thirds of the health care employment gains within this time occurred in ambulatory health care services.

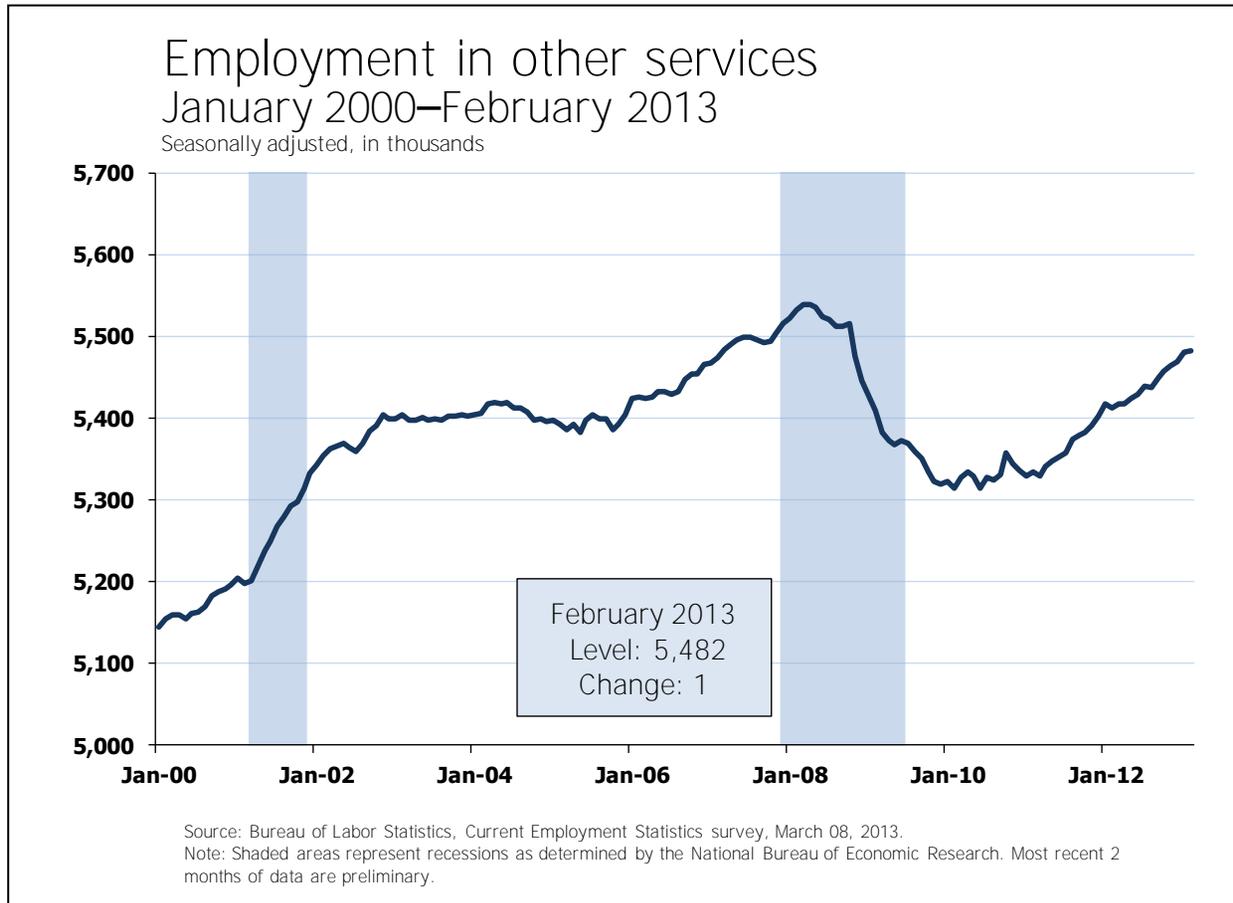
### Leisure and Hospitality



Employment in leisure and hospitality continued to maintain its trend of steady, moderate growth in February.

Since reaching an employment trough in December 2009, leisure and hospitality has added over 1 million jobs. Food services and drinking places accounted for 83 percent of the job growth during this period.

### Other Services



Employment in other services changed little in February. In the last 6 months, however, this industry has added 44,000 jobs. Since reaching an employment trough in June 2010, other services has recovered 167,000 jobs or 74 percent of the jobs lost between April 2008 and June 2010.

### Government



Government employment continued to trend down in February. Employment changed little over the month at the federal, state, and local government levels, with the exception of a small uptick in U.S. Postal Service employment (+5,000).

Since an employment peak in August 2008, state government, excluding education lost 173,000 jobs.

Employment in local government reached a peak in July 2008 and has decreased by 581,000; local government education accounted for 62 percent of the jobs lost.



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